

# Restocking the Famous Madison

By CHARLES L. FUQUA, Fish Culturist in Charge of U. S. Fish Hatchery at Meadow Creek

**I**T WILL soon be time again to get out the fish rod, replenish the fly book, and start in pursuit of the trout in Montana's lakes and streams. Many of these flies will probably be used on that splendid trout stream, the Madison river. This stream, flowing down from the Yellowstone Park, down through the Madison valley, along the outskirts of the little city of Ennis, may be aptly called the fisherman's paradise.

I wonder how many anglers, when fishing in these waters, will stop to think about the origination and propagation of these finny tribes. The lower Madison Lake, the Madison river and its tributaries are wonderfully adapted to fish propagation as well as to the pleasures of the angler. While high up in the fastnesses of the ranges in the Madison National Forest bordering the Madison valley will be found numerous beautiful lakes and streams, some devoid of fish life and others with large numbers of the aristocratic native cutthroat trout.

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, with the cooperation of the State Fish and Game Department and the National Forest Service, is endeavoring to stock all of the virgin lakes and streams with this native cutthroat trout, this fish being well adapted to the clear, crystal streams and lakes found in Montana. The eggs for stocking purposes are

furnished from that wonderful spawning station of the Montana Fish and Game Department at Georgetown Lake, near Anaconda. Many are eyed and hatched at the government spawning station at Meadow Creek, on the shore of Meadow Lake.

All these virgin lakes and streams are above impassable falls, therefore fish in their wanderings have never been able to reach them. The more accessible waters are stocked with fingerlings taken up in cans on pack trains by forest rangers or local ranchers.

The more inaccessible waters are stocked by the planting of the eggs themselves, just before they are ready to hatch. These eggs are packed in ice in especially designed cases, and taken on a pack horse by the rangers and planted on the gravel bars and in sheltered places along the shores of the lakes to be stocked. Some of these lakes will not be reached by the average angler for a number of years, but will supply excellent fishing in years to come. At the same time we are preserving for future generations the native trout of Montana and the Rocky Mountain region.

What could be better than a cutthroat caught in a high mountain lake or stream?

In the lower waters will be found the native Montana grayling, the spec-

tacular and hard-fighting rainbow, and the vigorous, dashing loch leven.

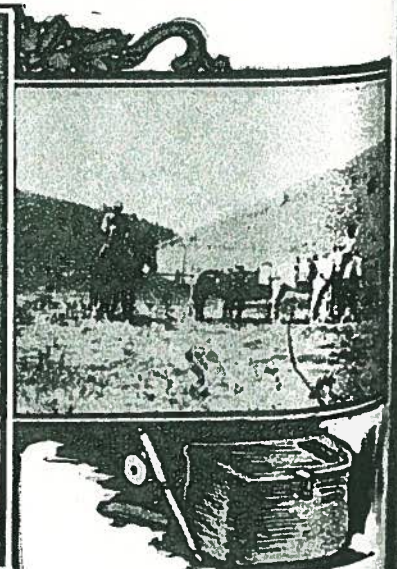
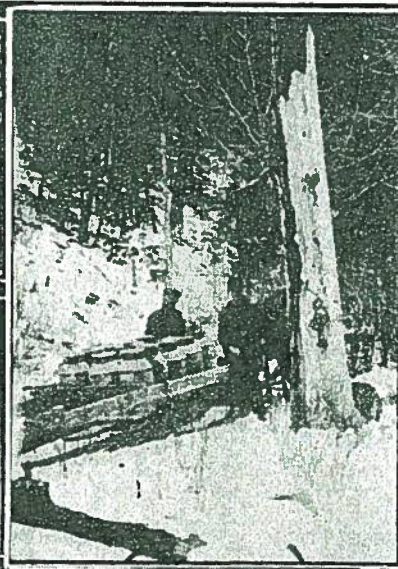
Cast your fly into any of the deep holes in the Madison river from the lake on up past Hutchins to Helge Dam and you will have a fight on your hands with one of these gamey fellows. Or perhaps one would rather try his skill from a boat in the lower lake. You will find them there in just as great a number.

The grayling, like the cutthroat, are natives of Montana waters. Fish of this species, planted from the Meadow Creek auxiliary station, are from eggs secured from the Fish and Game Department's spawning station at Georgetown Lake.

The rainbow has been brought from Pacific Coast states and introduced into these waters. This fish has done as well in these waters that the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries operates traps at this station where from three to five million eggs are secured yearly. The resulting fish from some of these eggs are used for restocking the parent waters and other waters in the vicinity. Some eggs are sent to the Bureau station of the bureau and used for stocking other Montana streams. Eggs are also supplied to the Butte Angler Club hatchery and to the bureau hatchery in Glacier National Park.

The loch leven originally came from Scotland. It can not be claimed, however.

## Restocking the Feeder Streams of the Madison River



Upper Left—On the shore of No Man's Land in the Madison national forest Mr. Fuqua is shown preparing to unpack eyed trout for planting.

Lower Left—Ranger Merryfield of the Forest Service and Charles Fuqua of the Bureau of Fisheries with a pack of eyed trout eggs preparing to leave the ranger station for No Man's Land in the Madison national forest.

Center—Charles Fuqua with a sled load of fingerlings from the Meadow Creek hatchery in Indian Creek canyon.

At the Right—Ranger Merryfield with a pack of native trout fingerlings.



ever, that this fish in the Madison is of almost pure strain, but there is something about this name which appeals more strongly to our imagination than does the more possibly correct designation, the European brown trout.

The first loch leven fingerlings were brought from the Bureau of Fisheries Station, Spearfish, South Dakota, in 1893, and planted in the Madison river and its tributaries inside the boundaries of Yellowstone Park.

The brown trout were planted in Nez Perce creek (a tributary to the Madison) in Yellowstone Park in 1890.

At the same time fish of these two species were planted in the Gardiner river, a tributary of the Madison river.

By 1915 they were abundant in all these waters. From this small introductive plant came the present tremendous numbers found in the lower Madison Lake and Madison river, where the Meadow Creek spawning station secured fourteen million eggs the past season. In the meantime there had been no planting of these fish until the last few years.

In later years the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has been restocking heavily with fry and fingerlings. While not preferred by some of the older anglers, this fish is rapidly growing in popularity. This gamey trout will survive the evils of deforestation and pollution better than any other of the salmonidae. The spawning station operated here is the largest loch leven spawning station in the United States. Montana can well be proud of having two of the largest trout spawning stations in the United States, namely, the state station at Georgetown Lake and the government station at Meadow Creek. And right at our back door is the government station on Yellowstone Lake that exceeds Meadow Creek station and rivals the one at Georgetown Lake. This station supplies several million native trout eggs annually for stocking Montana waters.

From two to three million loch leven eggs are furnished the state department at their Big Timber and Great Falls hatcheries, where they are hatched and the fish reared to the fingerling stage before being planted. The bureau is cooperating with the State Fish and Game Department in stocking the Missouri river from Great Falls to Helena with this variety in the belief that this, especially the three big power reservoirs, will soon become one of the greatest loch leven fishing regions in the world, besides which large numbers of spawn will be available for general use. Before the coming of the "Scotchman" this area had been nearly depleted of trout owing to deforestation and pollution. Eggs of this variety are also sent to other states where the resulting fish have been found readily adaptable to different conditions.

The waters of the Madison valley are probably as intensively fished as any waters of the Northwest. The way the wonderful fishing now found is maintained is by the judicious planting of the millions of fry and fingerlings hatched yearly.

## More Bird Sanctuaries

**T**HE FIRST public report of the National Committee on Wild Life Legislation was made to the Fifteenth National Game Conference at New York in December by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, the chairman of the committee. Game Warden Robert H. Hill and Chairman T. N. Marlowe of the State Commission represented Montana at the gathering.

It was urged that the conference support the committee's plan to work for the enactment of the Norbeck bill for the establishment of migratory bird refuges as it passed the senate last spring, with the recommended elimination of the provision requiring that such refuges as the government does establish shall later be turned over to the states for management at the government's expense.

The conference also was urged to approve the committee's plan to secure the elimination of the tariff on game birds imported for stocking purposes.

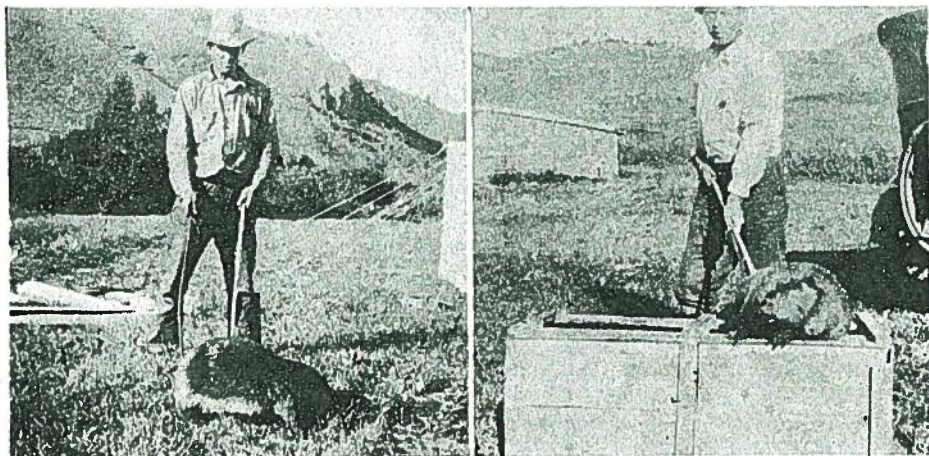
These recommendations were the result of steps taken at the Seattle Conservation Convention last August to coordinate the efforts of all the large wild life conservation organizations and the state game officials.

The National Game Conference, composed of representatives from practically all organizations and state and federal officials interested in wild life

conservation, unanimously endorsed these recommendations and pledged its hearty support of the committee's plans.

The members of the National Committee on Wild Life Legislation who were in New York for this meeting in addition to Chairman Pearson of the National Audubon Association, were Carlos Avery, president of the American Game Protective Association, New York City; Seth E. Gordon, conservation director of the Izaak Walton League, Chicago; Dr. John C. Phillips, president of the American Wild Fowls, Wenham, Mass.; George D. Pratt, president of the American Forestry Association, New York City; E. Lee LeCompte, State Game Warden of Maryland, representing the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners; Robert H. Hill, State Game Warden of Montana, alternate for R. G. Parvin of Colorado, representing the Western Association of Fish and Game Commissioners; Dr. Harold C. Bryant, representing I. Zell-erbach, president of the California Game and Fish Commission; I. T. Quinn, State Game and Fish Commissioner of Alabama; Keith McCause, State Game and Fish Commissioner of Missouri; and Colonel William Mer-shon of Saginaw, Mich., representing Gustavus Pope of Detroit.

## Montana Sportsmen Protect the Beaver



Federal Hunter Boyce is shown above alongside a beaver taken on the Marias river and placed in the Beaver Creek game preserve. In the other picture Deputy State Game Warden L. C. Clark, who is stationed at Havre, is shown making preparations to transport beaver to the preserve. They were placed in an ordinary wooden box and made no effort to escape.

**T**HROUGH cooperation with the Havre Rod and Gun Club the State Fish and Game Department has not only successfully transported and planted 26 elk on the Beaver creek game preserve, but 20 beaver have been trapped on the Marias river alive and

transported to the preserve where all are doing well. Mr. Boyce is a government trapper employed in the fight against predatory animals constantly being waged by the State Department in connection with the United States Biological Survey.